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National Day Greetings

The Board of Directors, management and staff of Muscat Media Group and Times of Oman extend their heartiest greetings to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** on the occasion of the 52nd National Day

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#52NationalDay



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WARM FELICITATIONS TO
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
AND THE PEOPLE OF OMAN ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 52nd NATIONAL DAY





Heartiest congratulations
and our sincere wishes to
**HIS MAJESTY
SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK**
and the people of Oman
on the occasion of the glorious
**52nd National Day
of the Renaissance**



Directors, Management and
the Staff of HSBC Bank Oman
extend their sincere wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the
glorious 52nd National Day of the Renaissance.



Opening up a world of opportunity



Oman’s foreign policy based on good neighbourly relations

At the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Oman reiterated that its solid political approach is based on a deep and stable vision and a vast experience derived from its heritage and human history

MUSCAT: The foundations upon which Omani foreign policy is based—notably good neighbourliness, respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in internal affairs, positive cooperation, mutual interests, justice, dialogue, humanity, and support for international peace and security—have made the Sultanate of Oman a reliable international partner at the local and global levels.

Oman’s status among entities that are active in resolving regional crises and the country’s presence at international events related to



this matter is a direct outcome of the soundness of its foreign policy foundations.

At the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Oman reiterated that its solid political approach is based on a deep and stable vision and a vast experience derived from its heritage and human history.

Oman also affirmed that the pillars of its foreign policy are stand-

ing on solid grounds of truth and justice, boosted by positive cooperation and ties of friendship with all, with the prime aim of contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security.

Oman is also convinced that “establishing and maintaining peace in the world is necessary for the good of peoples, and that this stance can be maintained only if it is based on firm rules of justice and

solid foundations of cooperation and harmony among all nations with the aim of engaging positively with countries of the world for a promising future of mankind.”

The vision of His Majesty the Sultan is based on Oman’s maintaining positive cooperation with all in various spheres and in a manner that promotes mutual interests. The results of the vision were manifest in His Majesty’s visits to

a number of countries, including Bahrain, Qatar, the United Kingdom and Germany.

A number of state leaders visited Oman, including Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Abdel Fattah

el Sisi of Egypt, President Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar.

The visits culminated in signing of partnerships and memoranda of understanding, as well as executive programmes in investment, trade and other areas.

Oman also promoted the principle of humanity in its foreign policy and played an active role in serving contemporary issues regionally and internationally, most notably realising the truce in Yemen that paved the way for the safe return of detainees to their countries..

Effective dialogue

Oman took keen interest in reiterating the call upon the international community to exert more efforts and to establish means of effective dialogue to stop human rights violations, whatever be the motives and causes. Oman also stressed the need to establish stability and prosperity for all nations and peoples on the basis of justice and equality.

In this context, the Sultanate of Oman believes that the realisation of a fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires the establishment of a Palestinian state on all its lands occupied since 1967. Oman stressed its rejection of all forms of systematic violations, expansionist domination and arbitrary arrests of Palestinians. -ONA

AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA

Oman-Saudi Arabia ties have yielded plentiful dividends: Ambassador



Abdullah bin Saud Al Anzi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate. -ONA

The opening of the Empty Quarter Border Post has contributed to the rise in trade and supported the movement of citizens between the countries

MUSCAT: Abdullah bin Saud Al Anzi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Sultanate of Oman reiterated that the government and the people of the Kingdom will participate in the celebrations of the Sultanate’s 52nd National Day, which falls on 18 November every year, heralding progress and development and strong bilateral relations between the two brotherly and strong nations, under the wise guidance and care of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia.

The Ambassador described the relations between the two countries as ideal and strong, sharing common ties and values, mainly religion, good neighbourliness, language and destiny, integrated visions on handling the present and future issues under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia.

He said the Omani Renaissance stems from the its deep-rooted identity, values and culture, Islamic heritage and Arabian values set by late Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the continued march of the Renaissance under the wise directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, as reflected in Oman Vision 2040, and the essential changes in the structuring of the state apparatus which enabled the Sultanate overcome the crisis of reduced oil prices and the impacts of COVID 19 pandemic, paving the way for further progress and success.

The fruitful results achieved by

the visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Saudi Arabia and the visit of Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister to the Sultanate contributed to the transformation of bilateral relations to wider horizons which concluded with the establishment of the Saudi-Omani Coordination Council, which would see convening of its first session soon.

He said the two countries have signed 13 agreements in various fields and the private sector of both the nations entered into partnerships.

For instance, the Saudi ACWA Power Group entered into partnership with a number of Omani companies for the establishment of Ibri II Power Plant Project, an independent project for development, construction and operation of the Electrolyte Solar Power Station in the Sultanate of Oman for production of 500 megawatts of renewable energy.

The Saudi ACWA Power, OQ Group and Air Products of USA signed an agreement on the joint development of Oman hydrogen project for the establishment of a plant for production of ammonia using green hydrogen in the Sultanate of Oman, he added.

In the field of energy, the Ambassador pointed out that the two countries have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) within the UN’s COP 27 2022. He also pointed to the announcement of HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of the Green Middle East Initiative in partnership with the region’s countries.

He also pointed to the Sultanate’s appreciation and support

for the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the field of preservation and sustainability of the environment.

He said the Public Investments Fund (PIF) of the KSA has established five regional companies, one of which targets investment in the Sultanate of Oman and that the total targeted investments amounted to USD 24 billion for investment opportunities in various sectors.

He said the opening of the Empty Quarter Border Post has contributed to the increase of the rate of exchange of trade and supported the movement of citizens between the two countries and transport of goods to achieve one of the key objectives of the economic visions of the two countries.

He said the political and economic stability of the Sultanate and the tangible action it has taken for diversification of sources of national income and curbing reliability on oil represent competitive benefits for foreign investments.

He added that the Sultanate has employed all such factors through the establishment of a number of economic zones and ports and has focused on promising sectors, mainly the tourism and logistics services sectors.

He also praised the significant role of the Sultanate’s foreign policy at the regional and international levels in serving security, peace and stability.

The Ambassador concluded by stating that Saudi Arabia believes in the strong ties with the Sultanate which, he said, had set an example of stability, security, development and prosperity in the region. -ONA

DAR AL ATTA’A



Agreement inked to support, empower rural Omani women

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Water Resources signed here today an agreement of cooperation with Dar Al Atta’a Charity to support rural women by implementing the second phase of the project of breeding and producing honeybees and funding the training programme “Tamkeen” to empower members of the rural women’s product funding programme codenamed “Reefy”. The agreement was signed by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habshi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Maryam Issa Al Zadjali, Member of the State Council and Chairperson of the charity’s Board of Directors. -ONA



WORLD GIS DAY

Findings in field of spatial science technology reviewed



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, marked the World Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day which falls on 16 November every year.

A number of public and private sector establishments participated in the event.

The ministry reviewed the most prominent findings in the field of

spatial science technology and digital information infrastructure developed in line with the requirements of Oman’s modern urban expansion strategy.

The strategy seeks to ensure sustainability of urban cities and the enactment of appropriate measures to meet the needs of smart cities.

The ceremony marking GIS Day was held under the auspices of Dr.

Khalfan Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning. It addressed three main themes in the areas of digital geotechnical fields, intelligence, geographical analysis and geographical services.

The event included a dialogue session on the future vision of GIS in Oman. Experts and spatial information technology specialists took part in the event. -ONA



On the occasion of the **52nd National Day**,
the Ladies and Gentlemen of Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel
are honoured to extend their sincere wishes and heartfelt
congratulations to
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
and the people of Oman.

We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless His Majesty with good health,
long life and happiness. We remain dedicated to serving under
the wise leadership of His Majesty for the growth,
progress and prosperity of Oman, and its loyal people.



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A&H would like to congratulate and extend a warm greetings to

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and the people of Oman on the momentous occasion

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52nd NATIONAL DAY



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and the people of Oman on the momentous occasion
of the 52nd National Day of the Renaissance

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52ND NATIONAL DAY

His Majesty receives greetings from officials



MUSCAT: On the advent of 18 November, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received greetings from several officials in the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd National Day.

In their greetings, the officials expressed their sincere sentiments to His Majesty on this auspicious occasion, wishing him good health and happiness. They prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect His Majesty and grant him a long life. They also prayed for the return of this occasion on him at a time the Omani people have achieved further aspirations under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

His Majesty received greet-

ings from HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Head of Office of the Supreme Commander, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Lt. Gen Hassan Muhsin Al Shuraiki, Inspector General of Police and Customs and Lt. Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service. -ONA

52ND NATIONAL DAY

National Day holiday announced in Oman

MUSCAT: As per the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, it has been decided that 30 November and 1 December 2022, will be an official holiday for employees in units of the State's Administrative Apparatus (public sector), other legal entities and private sector establishments on the occa-

sion of the 52nd National Day. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Ministry of Labour said that employers may agree with their respective employees to continue working during the above-mentioned two days, if deemed necessary, provided the workers be compensated for that. -ONA

Oman cuts public debt by OMR2.4bn, thanks to Govt measures

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has taken steps to implement economic measures and streamline procedures



MUSCAT: Oman presses ahead with the approach charted by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to implement economic measures and streamline procedures. This was achieved despite the economic impacts brought about worldwide as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and other global crises.

On top of these measures was the medium-term Fiscal Balance Plan (2020-2023), which proved practical through the results it achieved, supported by the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) in line with Oman Vision 2040.

This approach was emphasised by His Majesty the Sultan who expressed his satisfaction with the positive change in the course of the state's financial performance and Oman's ability to meet its financial obligations.

During this year and until the end of August 2022, the Sultanate of Oman was able to pay off loans and replace some high-cost bonds with low-cost ones valued at more than OMR4 billion.

It also cut down the size of the public debt by about OMR2.4

billion as at the end of August 2022, to stand at OMR18.4 billion, thanks to Government measures taken to support economic recovery.

The ratio of public debt to the GDP decreased to 46.5 percent.

This enabled the government to diminish public debt risks and reduce the cost of public debt interests to be paid in the future by about OMR127 million, besides improving the credit rating and other benefits to consolidate economic growth.

The increase in added value in oil and non-oil activities at the end of the second quarter of 2022 contributed to the growth of the GDP value at current prices by 30.4 percent, touching OMR20.4 billion, compared to OMR15.6 billion at the end of the corresponding quarter in 2021.

His Majesty's directives during his chairmanship of the Council of Ministers last

March—to keep pace with global transformations in the field of green hydrogen and allocate appropriate sites for its production—will enhance foreign investment opportunities, localise this technology and benefit from its multiple uses to produce electrical energy and provide thermal energy for local industries.

To lend support to low-cost clean energy solutions, Ibri Solar Energy Project opened last January 2022 as the first solar power plant to be connected to the main electricity grid with the aim of diversifying sources of renewable energy, maximising the contribution of clean energy projects, boosting the national economy and attracting investments.

His Majesty the Sultan's directives to add more than OMR650 million to implement additional development projects over projects already endorsed in the 10th five-year plan 2021-2025

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Oman to celebrate 52nd National Day on Friday

The attention that His Majesty the Sultan accords to decision-making mechanisms is aimed at serving the country's supreme interests



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will celebrate the 52nd National Day on 18th of November.

Omani people will mark the Renewed Renaissance and its glorious reign under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who affirmed his constant quest to advance Oman's modern cultural and economic status and his keenness to make Omani citizens as true partners in their country's comprehensive development.

His Majesty the Sultan's vision for the future of this benign land reflected positively on the integration of government departments with private sector establishments and civil society institutions. This has in turn brought about tangible results in different social, economic and political fields.

The attention that His Majesty the Sultan accords to the study of decision-making mechanisms is aimed at serving the country's supreme interests. The outcome was a set of decisions, the most prominent of which the restructuring of the Council of Ministers on 16 June 2022. The deci-

sion was the second one after His Majesty the Sultan assumed the reins of power. It affirmed His Majesty's resolve to follow up the efforts exerted to improve government performance towards the realisation of Oman Vision 2040. The establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council, under His Majesty's own chairmanship, was yet a step forward in founding a system capable of achieving the loftiest standards of justice, impartiality and transparency in line with pillars of Oman Vision 2040. The step also combines all parties of litigation into a single judicial schema.

Governorates' enhanced role

The Royal Decree on enhancing the role of the governorates constituted a major step in achieving the modern approach to decentralise local administration. It empowers Oman's 11 governorates, defines their roles in development and defines their economic and social priorities to benefit from the com-

parative advantage among governorates. Decentralisation also streamlines service procedures for citizens, an objective underscored by His Majesty the Sultan upon his chairmanship of the Council of Ministers on 11 October 2022. In the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan stressed the importance of coordination among units of the States' Administrative Apparatus and the governorates, the acceleration of electronic transformation, interconnection among governorates to streamline procedures, facilitate the execution of transactions, develop the quality of government services and address the existing challenges.

A decision was issued to add two new wilayats to Oman's administrative division—namely by according the status of "wilayat" to both "Al Jabal Al Akhdar" and "Sinaw", raising the total number of wilayats in Oman to 63.

The decision was aimed at attracting investments, developing resources and upgrading services and activities in the two wilayats.



His Majesty the Sultan's keenness to hold direct meetings with sheikhs and dignitaries of Oman constitutes a strong manifestation of the leader's keenness to get first-hand knowledge about citizens' needs, despite the existence of public institutions such as the Council of Oman—a legislative monitoring body—and municipal councils, which undertake developmental and service roles in their respective wilayats.

The Royal-meet-the-people gatherings affirm His Majesty the Sultan's sincere desire to implement decentralisation and make it the most straightforward administrative application for the future in Oman's governorates.

The new administrative setup offers governors and governorates direct authority to run their internal affairs, including planning and implementation of missions. This makes governorates' affairs more closely associated with the districts themselves, their governors and their municipal councils.

Much hope is pinned on polls of municipal councils, due to be held on 25 December for local voters and 17 December 2022 for citizens voting from abroad. The tasks of municipal councils keep pace with the Royal vision of His Majesty the Sultan and

the role that the councils are expected to undertake.

Royal Decree No. 38/2022 introduced amendments to some provisions of the Municipal Councils Law, which aims to facilitate their missions in different governorates. This was stated by His Majesty the Sultan who has affirmed that time is ripe for decentralisation of decisions pertaining to local communities. This brought to the limelight the role of governors and the role of municipal councils.

His Majesty the Sultan's emphasis on interaction between governors, municipal councils, Oman Investment Authority and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry assumes a special significance. This interaction gains more impetus after the Governorates Development Programme's allocations were increased to OMR20 million and the addition of new development projects to previous projects endorsed for implementation during the rest of the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) whose worth exceeding OMR650 million in different sectors.

Royal vision to spur growth

The Royal vision will spur economic growth and contribute to the continuity of services and the completion of infrastructure. It will also boost private sector activities and provide more employment opportunities for citizens.

Last January, Oman implemented the "System of Individual Performance and Institutional Proficiency" (Ejada) in 57 government institutions. The system, which covers about 175,000 government employees, aims at generating a quantum leap in government performance by enhancing the efficiency of human resources and improving the level

of government services.

The Government Digital Transformation Programme is an executive arm of a digital economy and a basic enabler in achieving the priorities of Oman Vision 2040. It contributes to the establishment of a flexible and innovative government apparatus based on principles of governance and providing high-quality performance and smart government services.

Indicators for measuring the performance of the programme include raising the percentage of automation of government services from 34 percent in 2020 to 80 percent by 2050, with the expected investment volume for implementing the programme set at OMR170 million, which will be invested in improving procedures, re-engineering government services, improving digital infrastructure, and empowering national competencies in the field of digital transformation.

The Sultanate of Oman has attached a great importance to protecting the environment and preserving its various natural resources.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik endorsed the year 2050 as a date for achieving zero carbon emissions. A national plan prepared for this objective includes the establishment of Oman Sustainability Centre, based on the outputs of the Carbon Management Laboratory. This serves as a major step that aims at diminishing the impacts of climate change, striking a balance between sustainable development and effects of climate change, establishing a knowledge-based economy, benefiting from clean technology to achieve sustainable development and developing a diversified mix of energy sources. -ONA

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52nd National Day





Omani women essential partners in country’s march to prosperity

Omani women have proven their mettle and received due care from His Majesty the Sultan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The presence of Omani women in all fields and their impressive contribution to Oman’s comprehensive development constitutes a direct outcome of the attention and care that women have received. This was confirmed by Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, on the occasion of Omani Women’s Day, which falls on 17 October. It reflects the achievements the women have made in all fields and in different practical and scholarly sectors. HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of



Culture, Sports and Youth, also stressed that Omani women showed their mettle over time as essential partners in Oman’s march prosperity, as desired by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. HH Sayyid Theyazin made the statement during the inauguration of the logo and identity of Women’s Club for Sports and Cultural Innovation. His Majesty the Sultan also accorded attention to the establishment of Omani women’s societies and rehabilitation centres for people with disabilities, both governmental and private, in all governorates of Oman, so that all could play their roles in domestic development. His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to provide appropriate financial support to those institutions and develop them. The result was that the Omani Women’s Societies Development Laboratory launched 19 empowering and investment initiatives, with a set of themes in mind to achieve progress. The themes include governance, the application of laws and legislation, a supportive environment, funding and investment. -ONA



Heartiest felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd National day





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HAPPY NATIONAL DAY
18 NOVEMBER

We extend our best wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the auspicious occasion of the 52nd National day

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BILATERAL RELATIONS



HM the Sultan sends written message to Syrian President Bashar Al Assad

DAMASCUS: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to President Bashar Al Assad of the Syrian Arab Republic dealing with the bilateral relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them.

The message was handed over by Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, when the Syrian President received him on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Sayyid Badr conveyed greetings and best wishes of His Majesty the Sultan to President Bashar and the people of Syria.

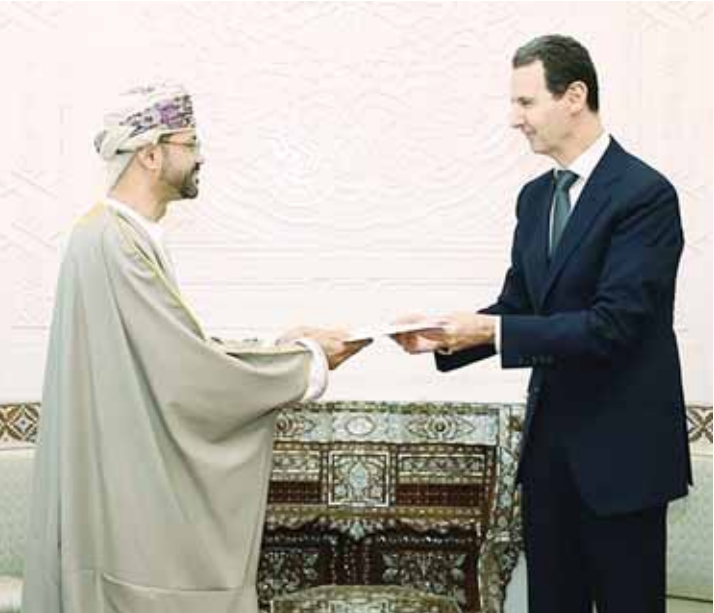
On his turn, the Syrian President asked Sayyid Badr to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty and the Omani people.

He also expressed his heartfelt sentiments to His Majesty and the Omani people on the occasion of the 52nd National Day.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and affirmed the joint keenness to boost cooperation in various fields to serve the joint interests.

It also touched on regional and international developments and underscored the importance of supporting all efforts that maintain security and stability in the region.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Faisal Mekdad, Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Sayyid Turki Mahmoud Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to Syria and Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department. — **ONA**



ROSSINI OPERA FESTIVAL

ROHM presents an exciting weekend of Rossini music

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) has announced the upcoming weekend of wonderful Rossini music.

Since 2017, the Royal Opera House Muscat has been working in collaboration with the Rossini Opera Festival to produce the Rossini farces. La Cambiale di Matrimonio is the last in the series and represents five years of an enriching partnership with ROF, producing fabulous editions of Rossini's comic farse to audiences in Oman and across the region.

Arias and duets

For 2022, the ROF has been invited to present an evening celebrating the Rossini repertoire with a concert entitled Homage to 'The Swan of Pesaro with the Rossini Symphony Orchestra to create a sensational weekend of Rossini. Artists from the Rossini Opera Festival, who are counted among the best Rossini interpret-



ers of this generation will perform arias and duets from across the broad repertoire of this much loved Italian composer.

La Cambiale di Matrimonio tells the story of merchant who deals his daughter into a marriage with a wealthy associate for the sake of money, a young couple who resist the manipulations of a greedy man and a genial but confused foreigner who sits between the two factions. How will they resolve the tricks and twists so everyone is appeased?

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/184	11kV & LV Network Improvement Works of 2022 in Zone-1 & Zone-3 (LOT-9)
Tender Fee	RO. 525.000 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be at least Grade-C registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 1 st December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 2 nd December 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for response pre clarification bid	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 11 th December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond / Bid Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation. Tender Bond / Bid Bond exempted for SME Company.



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Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/185	11kV & LV Network Improvement Works of 2022 in Zone-1 (LOT-8)
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be at least Grade-C registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
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Our warmest felicitations
to His Majesty Sultan
Haitham bin Tarik

And the people of Oman on the occasion of
the 52nd National Day of the Renaissance



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Conference on ‘United Human Values, Sustainable Development for All’ begins

The conference aims to promote mutual acceptance and peaceful coexistence among different communities and groups

MUSCAT: The international conference ‘United Human Values and Sustainable Development for All’ kicked off on Wednesday, coinciding with marking the International Day for Tolerance and within the framework of the projects “United Human Values” and “Message of Peace”.
The conference aims to promote mutual acceptance and peaceful coexistence among different communities and groups.
The conference is organised by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and the “Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers”.
The opening ceremony of the conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.
Dr. Mohammed Said Al Ma’amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs gave a statement in which he said that the Sultanate of Oman, in cooperation with organisations concerned with tolerance, coexistence, and understanding seeks to promote a culture of coexistence, integration, harmony, synergy, compassion for others, respect for human self, appreciation of diversity, respect for sanctities, and rejection of all forms of discrimination and intolerance.
Al Ma’amari added that 120 representatives from 50 countries are

participating in the conference.
He pointed out that the conference covers topics related to “Sustainable Development for All” within the framework of the humanitarian goals within the UN plan and among the Global Goals “Overcoming the World’s Challenges”.
In his turn, Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs affirmed that the foreign policy of the Sultanate of Oman, which adopts principles of dialogue and tolerance, has positioned itself as a country that is always friendly to all.
Further, Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy said that Oman’s regional stances and contributions are testimony for its quest for peace and its keenness for harmony among peoples of the whole world.
The conference comprises several pillars, namely on united human values, cultural diversity, the role of women in fostering united human values and leading sustainable development.
The conference comprises a “Photovoice” programme and a Youth programme. The two programmes aim to train young people in engaging in effective dialogue between religions and cultures through the use of photography and intercultural dialogue.
The event also includes activities for children to provide them with an artistic experience through their participation in drawing paintings that express the values of coexistence and understanding.
Moreover, two exhibitions are held during the conference. The first is themed “Message of Peace” and it seeks to deliver the cultural and civilizational experience of the Sultanate of Oman to the world by presenting a civilized model of coexistence, understanding and peacemaking. The second is entitled “Shadow Art” exhibition which displays artistic works that employ light and shadow to create images expressing united human values. -ONA



INAUGURATION: The opening ceremony of the conference was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy. - ONA





52nd OMAN NATIONAL DAY

The management and staff of Muscat Media Group would like to convey our warmest greetings and felicitations to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and the people of Oman on the occasion of 52nd National Day.



AT SQCCRC

First transperineal prostate biopsy in Sultanate conducted



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Genitourinary (GU) team at the Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre (SQCCRC) performed the first-of-its-kind operation in Oman for taking a sample of the prostate through the perineum which is safer and more accurate. Dr. Hilal Al Rashdi, Consultant of Urology Oncology said: "In transperineal biopsy, doctor passes the biopsy needle through the perineal skin into the prostate, rather than passing the biopsy needle through a potentially contaminated rectum. This approach lowers the risk of sepsis to 1 in 500, rather than the approximate 1 to 2 in 100 risk of sepsis related to transrectal biopsy."

ant of Urology Oncology said: "In transperineal biopsy, doctor passes the biopsy needle through the perineal skin into the prostate, rather than passing the biopsy needle through a potentially contaminated rectum. This approach lowers the risk of sepsis to 1 in 500, rather than the approximate 1 to 2 in 100 risk of sepsis related to transrectal biopsy."

Higher detection rate
Studies show a slightly higher detection rate with the transperineal approach, and the main benefit is safety, due to the lower risk of severe life-threatening infection. Also, with a transperineal approach it is much easier to access the anterior prostate, which is not well sampled with transrectal biopsy.

Dr.Hilal Al Rashdi added: "So, nowadays all guidelines advise TP approach as first choice if available."
Prostate biopsy
The urologist recommends a prostate biopsy if results from initial tests, such as a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test or digital rectal exam, suggest that the patient may have prostate cancer.

Tissue samples from the prostate biopsy are examined under a microscope for all cell abnormalities that are a sign of prostate cancer. If cancer is present, it is evaluated to determine how quickly it's likely to progress and to determine the best treatment options for the patient.

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/186	Replacement of Components/ Assets in Existing 5 GSS (Iltin GSS, Al-Qarm GSS, Ashoor GSS, Sha'aon GSS and Raysut GSS)
Tender Fee	RO. 105.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be Grade-A registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 1 st December 2022
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Site Visit	N/A
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Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 11 th December 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation. Tender Bond /Bid Bond exempted for SME Company.

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Invitation to Tender

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Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/187	Interlink between Rahab Village and Dimeet Village-Disc-DN-R-ZA-2022-33kv-62
Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be at least Grade-B registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
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أن أم سي nmc

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Happy 52nd National Day

الغبرة Al Ghoubra 24504000 72654000

الجزيل Al Jalil 24269222 92636179

السبيل Seeb 24423894 91342876

Congratulations and warm wishes to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd National Day

THE SULTANATE OF OMAN NATIONAL DAY
— 18 OF NOVEMBER —

فن النسج
ART OF LOOM

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS

Deadline for registration of voters

MUSCAT: In the run-up for the forthcoming Municipal Councils Elections, Third Term, it has been decided that the period allowed for the registration of voters in the elections' register ends on Thursday (17 November 2022), which is also the deadline for transfer of voters' electoral files from one wilayat to another. The Ministry of Interior called on citizens who have not previously been registered in the electoral register to quickly submit their requests for registration in the electoral register through the website "elections.om". The application should quote the voter's addresses registered in their ID cards, provided that the cards are equipped with the electronic certification system "Public Key Infrastructure or PKI". The ministry called on voters registered in the electoral register wishing to transfer their registration from one wilayat to another to quickly submit their applications through the election website, according to the permanent or current address recorded in the ID cards. — **ONA**

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE

Discussion on growth of media

ABU DHABI: The Ministry of Information, represented by Oman News Agency (ONA), participated in the 49th General Assembly of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), which began at Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. The two-day conference, which brings 14 Arab news agencies together, discusses the development of media institutions, Arab News Agencies' training plan for the next three years (2022-2025), relations between Arab and European news agencies and the signing of cooperation agreements with regional news organisations and agencies. It also covers scopes for cooperation between the Secretariat General of FANA and the Arab League. The conference also included a dialogue session on expanding relations between Arab and European news agencies and exploring ways of upgrading cooperation in the field of exchange of news and expertise in news-related technical fields. — **ONA**

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/Tender/2022/189
Subject	UNE - LOT 10 P - 2022
Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid "DCRP Registration Certificate" and valid "CEP Authorized card copy issued by DISC" Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 1 st December 2022
Tender document published date	03:00 PM on 2 nd December 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	N/A
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Invitation to Tender

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Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/192	11kV & LV Network Improvement Works of 2022 in Zone-1 & Zone-3 (LOT-11)
Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%); Tender fee exempted for SME Company (No Tender fee for Riyada card holders of SME). Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last three (3) years in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Contractors participating in the tendering process shall be at least Grade-C registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP), Sultanate of Oman. Apart from the above, the Contractors participating in the tendering process shall have Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with bid without which the bids will not be considered for evaluation. Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the HSE qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
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OMAN 52nd NATIONAL DAY

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INDIA'S CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY

Masks no longer compulsory during air travel to India

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Passengers travelling from Oman to India can now fly without wearing masks during air travel, said India's Civil Aviation Ministry on Wednesday.

In a communication to the scheduled airlines, the ministry

said the use of masks is no longer compulsory during air travel. The ministry said the latest decision has been taken in line with the government's policy of a graded approach to COVID-19 management response.

The civil aviation ministry, however, said that passengers should

preferably use them amid the declining number of coronavirus cases.

It may be mentioned that till now, the use of masks or face covers while travelling on flights was mandatory, be it domestic or international sectors on Indian air carriers.

"...the in-flight announcements henceforth may only mention that in view of the threat posed by COVID-19, all passengers should preferably use mask/face covers," the government communication said.

It also said that any specific reference to fine/penal action need

not be announced as part of the in-flight announcements.

The total number of active coronavirus cases in the country accounted was only 0.02 per cent of the total infections and the recovery rate increased to 98.79 per cent, according to the latest official data.





Oman National Day
November 18, 2022

Congratulations

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik

and Best Wishes to the People of the
Sultanate of OMAN on the occasion of the

52nd National Day

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Indian School - Muscat	Indian School - Al Ghubra	Indian School - Al Wadi Al Kabir	Indian School - Darsait	Indian School - Al Seeb
Indian School - Al Mabella	Indian School - Salalah	Indian School - Sohar	Indian School - Nizwa	Indian School - Al Muladha
Indian School - Sur	Indian School - Ibri	Indian School - Ibra	Indian School - Jalan	Indian School - Rustaq
Indian School - Khasab	Indian School - Buraimi	Indian School - Masirah	Indian School - Thumrait	Indian School - Saham
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ON NOVEMBER 13 AND 14



The theme of the concert was a “Beautiful Evening of Harmony in Muscat.” – Supplied picture

Korean Embassy hosts National Day and Armed Forces Day reception and friendship concert

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Korean Embassy hosted a National Day and Armed Forces Day reception and a friendship concert on November 13 and 14, respectively.

The common thread of these events was to commemorate a long-standing partnership between Korea and Oman that has grown from strength to strength since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1974.

KIM Kiejoo, Ambassador of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman highlighted the bridges that link both countries and peoples in four fields in his remarks at the reception.

Ambassador KIM emphasised that “the shared commitment to peace and prosperity has prevailed to the mutual benefit of the two countries and beyond” on the political and security and defence

bridge.

He also underlined that “a thriving economic and trade bridge is linking the two economies” with Korea as the third-largest trade partner of Oman. He reassured the commitment to “aligning the partnership with the Oman Vision 2040 and contributing to its fulfillment.”

He stressed that “Korea and Oman could further create a “green hydrogen bridge” building on the traditional energy bridge founded on the long-term contract for supplying Omani LNG to Korea.

Korea is the largest destination of Omani LNG with 44 per cent of Oman’s LNG production is exported to Korea.

The fourth bridge he elaborated is a cultural bridge which is built by cultural exchanges, scholarship programme and the instrumental role of the Oman-Korea Friendship Association.

Korea’s Beautiful Mind Charity performed its friendship concert on November 14 with the Omani, Korean and expat community audience to celebrate the 48th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

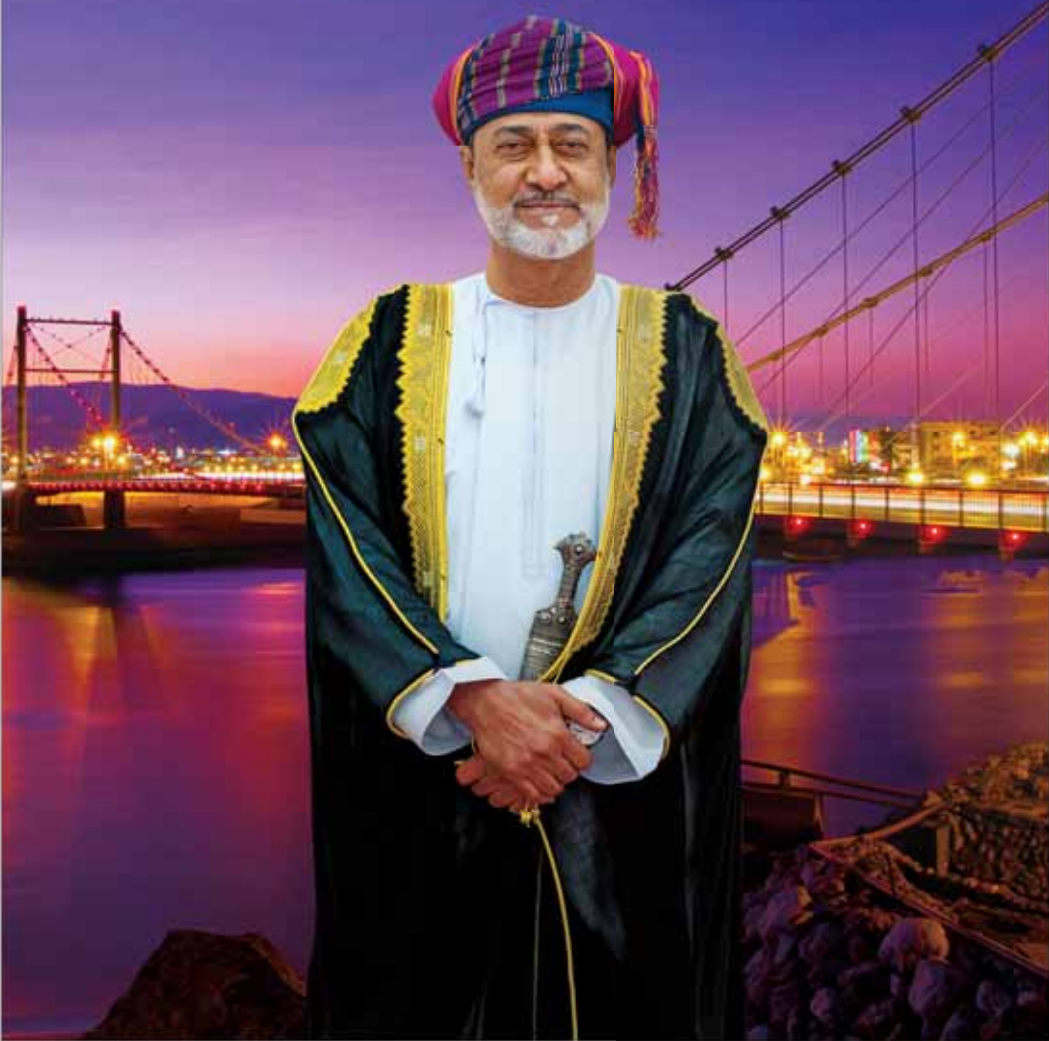
The Beautiful Mind Charity has pursued cultural diplomacy with the aim of giving and sharing love with the less privileged in the world through musical performance.

The theme of the concert was a “Beautiful Evening of Harmony in Muscat.”

As such, the concert showcased a harmonious omnibus of music covering Korean and Omani traditional music and classical as well as contemporary musical pieces. Ambassador KIM expressed his willingness to “continue the endeavor of the Korean Embassy to further facilitate cultural cooperation with the Omani partners.”

CELEBRATING 52 YEARS OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

Greetings to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and people of Oman on the occasion of the
52nd National Day



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Seven Seas Petroleum LLC would like to extend their sincere congratulations and heartfelt greetings to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** and people of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd National Day.



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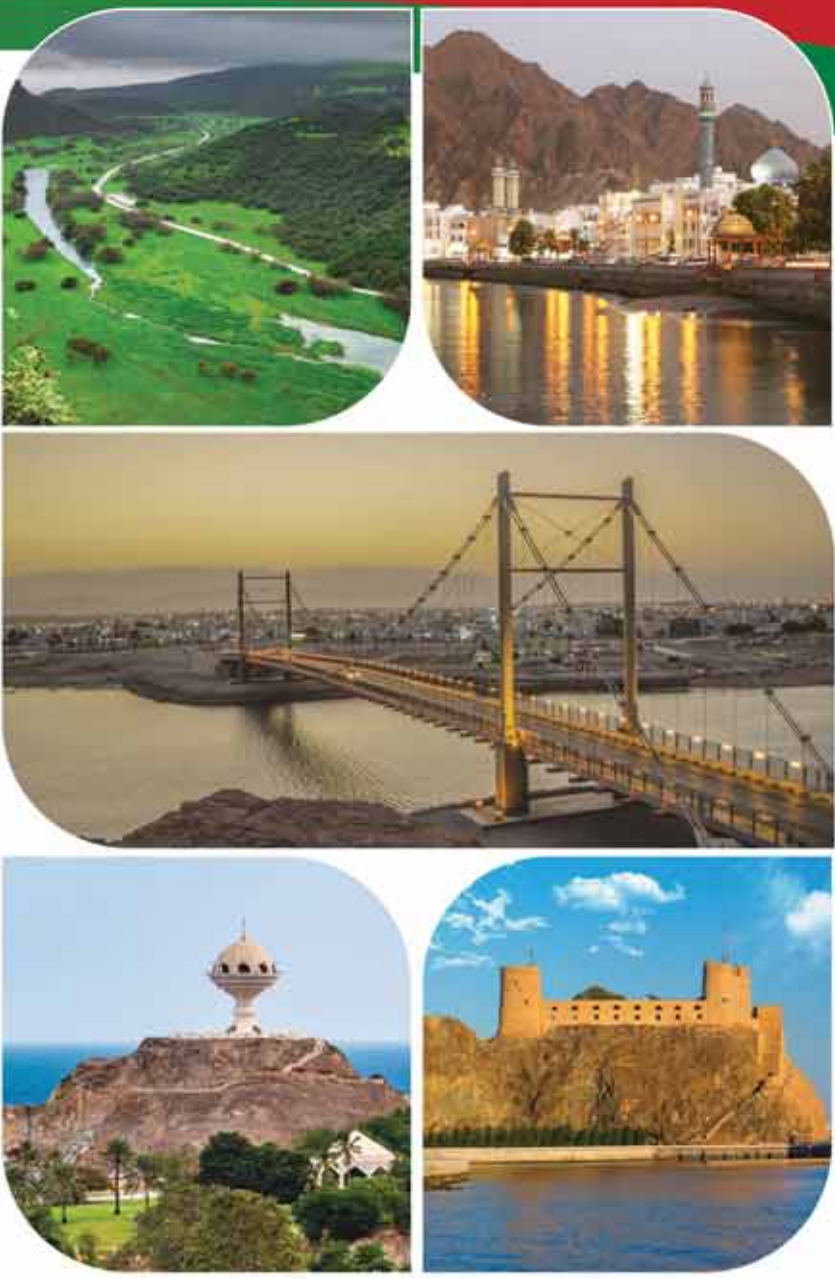
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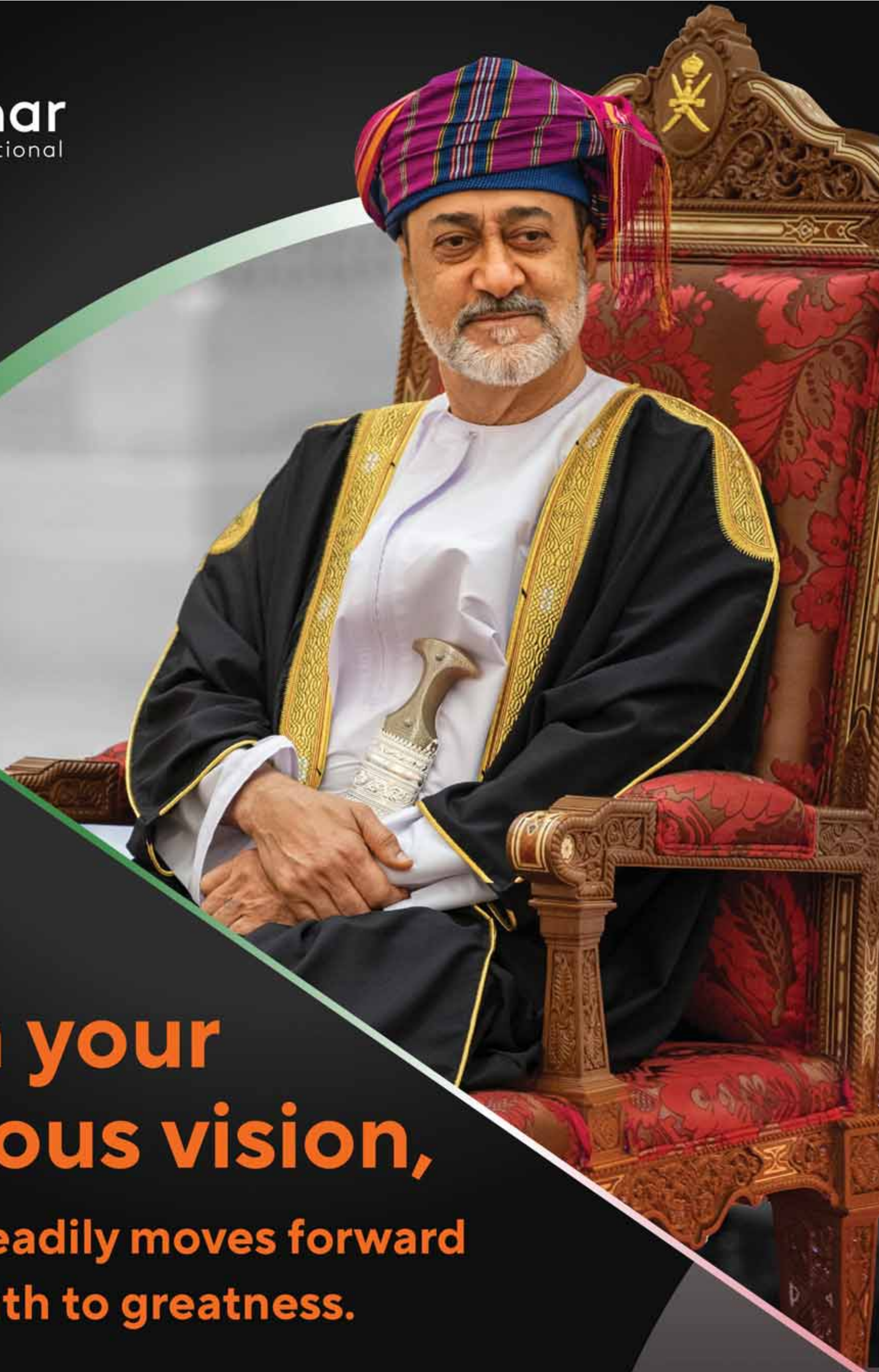
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OMAN OIL PRICE RISES BY \$1.29

Oman oil price (January Delivery 2023) on Wednesday reached \$88.03, comprising a rise of \$1.29 from the price of Tuesday which stood at \$86.74. — OMA



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and the people of Oman as we continue to progress marking one 'win' after the other.

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Oman’s GDP is projected to grow at 4.3% in 2022: International Monetary Fund

The IMF team further said that high oil prices and fiscal consolidation under the authorities’ Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP), have improved fiscal and external balances considerably

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman’s gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow at 4.3 per cent in 2022 supported by increased hydrocarbon production and continued recovery of non-hydrocarbon economic activity. “The country’s overall GDP growth rebounded from -3.2 per cent in 2020 to 3.0 per cent in 2021, and is projected at 4.3 per cent in 2022,” the statement from the IMF team said on Wednesday.

Strong vaccination efforts have allowed for the relaxation of all social distancing restrictions, and the economic recovery is gaining traction, according to the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with Oman and considered and endorsed the staff appraisal without a meeting.

The IMF Mission further said that high oil prices and fiscal consolidation under the authorities’ Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP), have improved fiscal and external balances considerably. The overall central government balance improved by 12.8 percentage points of GDP to a deficit of 3.2 per cent in 2021, largely due to higher hydrocarbon revenue, expenditure restraint, and the introduction of VAT. Fiscal and external surpluses are expected in 2022 and over the medium term. Central government debt declined to 62.9 per cent of GDP in 2021 and it is expected to decline to about 44 per cent of GDP in 2022.

Banking system

The banking system has weathered the recent shocks relatively well. Financial soundness indicators appear healthy, benefiting from prudent oversight of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) and the strong buffers before entering the crisis, the report added.

Rebounding economic activity and elevated global inflationary pressures are expected to push up average inflation to 3 per cent



FUELLING GROWTH: Non-hydrocarbon growth is expected to strengthen over the medium term, supported by the oil price outlook, planned investments, and structural reforms. — Times file picture

in 2022. Direct spillovers on the Omani economy from the war in Ukraine have been limited.

The economic recovery is gaining traction. Strong measures helped mitigate the health and socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. Non-hydrocarbon growth is expected to strengthen over the medium term, supported by the oil price outlook, planned investments, and structural reforms. Fiscal and external buffers have increased, supported by increased hydrocarbon revenues and substantial fiscal consolidation. Nevertheless, downside risks, notably from global sources, dominate in the short run.

Fiscal consolidation

The authorities remain committed to fiscal consolidation notwithstanding oil revenue windfalls and social pressures. Significant fiscal adjustment is being implemented in 2022, which has allowed for increased social spending while still generating a substantial surplus due to the oil windfall. However, reinforcing fiscal sustainability over the medium term, as envisaged under the MTFP, and creating space for social safety net reforms and higher capital expenditure require additional measures. Thus, efforts to strengthen tax administration and implement a PIT are welcome. The phased withdrawal of untar-geted energy and water subsidies should be a priority. Intensive public outreach is essential to sustain support for fiscal consolidation



STRUCTURAL REFORMS: On the upside, the outlook could be bolstered by higher-than-expected hydrocarbon windfalls, accelerated implementation of structural reforms under Vision 2040, and the realisation of investment projects from regional partners. — Times file picture

amid rising oil windfalls.

Clear objectives

Establishing strong fiscal frameworks with clear objectives and a long-term anchor would help achieve fiscal sustainability. Fiscal frameworks would lay the foundation for adopting a fiscal rule. A rule based on the non-hydrocarbon structural primary balance, which is robust to hydrocarbon price volatility and economic fluctuations, could be appropriate. On-going reforms to improve public financial management and transparency are welcome and developing a sovereign asset and liability

management framework should be a priority.

The exchange rate peg remains appropriate. The peg has provided a credible monetary anchor, helping to deliver low and stable inflation. Official foreign reserves, fiscal prudence, and structural reforms would continue to reinforce the peg. Better coordination between fiscal and monetary authorities, improved liquidity management, and deeper financial markets would improve the capacity for a more independent monetary policy.

Financial system risks are low, but the CBO should continue its

close monitoring of bank asset quality and its efforts to strengthen regulatory frameworks. Restoring prudential rules to pre-pandemic levels should be a priority. Enacting the new Banking Law would align the legislation with international best practices. Careful coordination is needed to ensure that banking system liquidity remains adequate as plans to enhance the liquidity management framework and establish the TSA are implemented. Progress in developing capital markets is welcome.

On the upside, the outlook could be bolstered by higher-than-expected hydrocarbon windfalls,

accelerated implementation of structural reforms under Vision 2040, and the realisation of investment projects from regional partners. On the downside, risks stem particularly from uncertainty about the war in Ukraine and its impact on the global economy and oil prices, a renewed flare-up of COVID-19 infections, tighter-than-expected global financial conditions, increased inflationary pressures from higher global food and energy prices, more persistent disruption in global supply chains, pressures to spend the hydrocarbon windfalls, and climate-related events.

CUTTING DOWN EMISSIONS

Oman affirms implementation of energy transition plan with investments worth more than \$190bn by 2050

SHARM EL SHEIKH: The Sultanate of Oman has affirmed its commitment to support international efforts to cut down carbon emissions, alleviate the negative effects of climate change and implement a plan for energy transition and decarbonisation with investments of more than \$190 billion by 2050.

This was unveiled by Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Oman’s Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative at the Arab League during a speech before the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt.

In his speech, Al Rahbi pointed out that Oman announced last October it set the year 2050 as the net zero carbon emissions deadline for all development sectors. “To this effect, Oman initiated a chain of detailed workshops and meetings between stakeholders at the national level,” Al Rahbi added.

Al Rahbi explained that Oman



started to prepare a roadmap that includes cutting down emissions of specific projects across various sectors such as renewable energy projects, energy efficiency projects and projects involving gas burning operations and methane emissions by using advanced monitor-

ing techniques like satellites and thermal cameras.

Oman is finalising a national policy for energy transition that focuses on setting a general framework, policies and regulations on accelerating the transformation process in sectors of hydrogen, re-

newable energy, energy efficiency and capturing, transfer, use or storage of carbon, said Al Rahbi.

He noted that Oman attaches special importance to the aspects of adaptation to the effects of climate change. “This was due to the increasing number and severity of

impacts of these changes on our country, including a sharp rise in temperatures during the summer months and chances for higher intensity of cyclones and climatic conditions which cause human and material losses that might cost billions of dollars every year,” Al Rahbi said.

He added that Oman took the initiative by pumping billions of dollars to establish modern early warning systems, build an integrated system of storage and protection dams, improve urban planning and drainage facilities and consolidate infrastructure such as streets, water, electricity and communications to enhance response to climatic hazards and limit associated damages.

In his speech, Al Rahbi stressed that Oman also developed a system of terrestrial, humid and marine natural reserves—about 25 reserves housing many types of wildlife breeding centres to save endangered species of wildlife from extinction.

In the same context, a national

campaign was launched to plant millions of wild trees, mangroves and coral reefs in various parts of Oman, in addition to encouraging different segments of society to plant trees in various environments and urban communities, Al Rahbi said.

He reiterated Oman’s endeavour to support regional efforts by all means, noting that during COP27, Oman Investment Authority (OIA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the ACWA Power Company of Saudi Arabia to explore joint investment opportunities in renewable wind energy projects with a capacity of (1.1Gw) in Egypt.

Oman welcomes all forms of co-operation and partnership at different levels, notably in the field of energy transition, providing clean energy and low-carbon products, as well as cooperation in the areas of carbon certificates, natural solutions for carbon sequestration and the development of monitoring and early warning systems, Al Rahbi concluded. — OMA

MSX index ends higher



Construction

Materials, up 8.45 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,441.52 points, up by 0.01 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.16 per cent at 461.17 points. Construction Materials, up 8.45 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 16.67 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 630 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.3 million, with more than 12.27 million shares changing hands. Out of 37 traded securities, 9 advanced, 13 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close,

domestic investors were net buyers for OMR420,000 while GCC and Arab investors were net sellers for OMR329,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR90,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,133.99 points, up 0.14 per cent. Prices of National Bank Oman, HSBC Bank Oman and Ominvest were up by 2.00 per cent, 1.29 per cent and 1.14 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Sohar International Bank, United Finance and Bank Muscat were down by 8.45 per cent, 1.94 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 0.36 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,092.37 points, down 0.18 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials and Voltamp Energy were up by 8.45 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Cement and Galfar Engineering were down by 1.43 per cent, 1.33 per cent and 0.55 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.41 per cent before closing at 1,534.39 points. Prices of Al Maha Marketing, Muscat Desalination, Oman Telecom and Renaissance Services were up by 4.17 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 0.95 per cent and 0.82 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Al Batinah Power, National Gas, Ooredoo, and Al Jazeera Services were down by 5.00 per cent, 2.63 per cent, 1.77 per cent, 1.02 per cent and 0.46 per cent respectively. — United Securities

AGREEMENT SIGNED

HSBC Oman announces legally binding merger pact with Sohar International

Times News Service

MUSCAT: HSBC Bank Oman, the 51 per cent owned subsidiary of HSBC Middle East Holdings BV (HMEH), has announced a legally binding agreement to take the necessary steps towards a merger by

incorporation with Sohar International Bank. The merger, which is still subject to approval from relevant regulatory bodies as well as from the respective shareholders of the two entities, is expected to complete in the second half of 2023.

HSBC Bank Middle East Limited will now seek regulatory approval to establish a new, wholly owned branch of HSBC Bank Middle East Limited in Oman, should the merger of HSBC Oman and Sohar International receive the necessary shareholder approvals.





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Indonesia hands over G20 presidency to India

Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially handed over the G20 Presidency to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the closing ceremony



BALI: Indonesia on Wednesday handed over the G20 Presidency to India, which will officially assume office on December 1, 2022. Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially handed over the G20 Presidency to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the closing ceremony. During the closing ceremony, PM Modi said, "It's a matter of pride for every Indian as India takes over the presidency

of the G20. We will organise G20 meetings in different states and cities in India. Together we will make G20 a catalyst for global change." "India's G20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented. In the next one year, it will be our endeavour that G20 works as a global prime mover to give impetus to collective action," he added. Earlier, PM Modi addressed the G20's last working session, Digital Transformation where he said that India is making "digital access public." He also noted that there is still a "huge digital divide"

at the international level. PM Modi said that only 50 countries have digital payment systems. In his statement at the third session of the G20 Summit, he called on world leaders for making a pledge to bring digital transformation into every person's life in order to keep no one deprived of the benefits of digital technology. "In India, we are making digital access public, but at the international level, there is still a huge digital divide. Citizens of most developing countries of the world do not have any kind of digital iden-

tiy. Only 50 countries have digital payment systems. "Can we take a pledge together that in the next ten years we will bring digital transformation in the life of every human being so that no person in the world will be deprived of the benefits of digital technology," PM Modi said at the G20 summit," he added. As India assumes the G20 presidency on December 1, PM Modi stated that his nation will work jointly with G20 partners for achieving the objective. He announced that the principle of "Data for development" will remain an integral part of the overall theme of India's presidency 'One Earth, One Family, One Family.' Calling digital transformation the "most remarkable change of the era," PM Modi said that its proper use can be a "force multiplier" in the global fight against poverty. "During its G-20 Presidency next year, India will work jointly with G-20 partners towards this objective. The principle of "Data for development" will be an integral part of the overall theme of our Presidency "One Earth, One Family, One Future," PM Narendra Modi said. **ANI**

ARTEMIS MISSION

NASA launches rocket for Artemis moon mission

WASHINGTON: NASA launched its most powerful rocket ever on Wednesday as part of the Artemis mission to reach the moon. The 32-story Space Launch System (SLS) rocket launched from Cape Canaveral at 1:47 local time (0647 GMT/UTC). NASA estimated 15,000 spectators gathered at the launch site. The crowd burst into cheers as the ground rumbled and the rocket lifted off. It was the launch attempt for the multibillion-dollar rocket after 10 weeks of technical mishaps and back-to-back hurricanes repeatedly delayed the launch.



Back to the moon The Artemis mission marks the first time NASA has attempted to reach the moon since the Apollo program's final launch 50 years ago. "For the Artemis generation, this is for you," launch director Charlie Blackwell-Thompson called out after takeoff, referring to all those born after Apollo. She said the inaugural Artemis launch was "the first step in returning our country to the moon and on to Mars."

A test for what's to come The Artemis mission will orbit the moon before returning to Earth. The voyage is expected to last 25 days. The first flight will be a vigorous test of the Orion spacecraft with mission control monitoring the mannequins on board. "There's a fair amount of risk with this particular initial flight test," mission manager Mike Sarafin said. NASA ultimately hopes to build a lunar base from which to send astronauts to Mars by end of the next decade. **BW**



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ANOTHER BID

Donald Trump announces 2024 presidential election bid

FLORIDA : Former United States President Donald Trump has announced that he will seek the Republican Party nomination to contest in the 2024 presidential election. "In order to make America great and glorious again I am tonight announcing my candidacy for President of the United States," Trump said on Tuesday (local time). "It was only the beginning to rescue the American dream," he further added. The announcement comes in the wake of mid-term elections held in the US. CNN reported that Trump's paperwork establishing his candidacy landed with the Federal Election Committee shortly before he delivered his announcement at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida waterfront estate. Democrats have been leading in 50 seats of the US Senate while Republicans continue to take lead in 49 seats, The Washington Post reported. Democrats have been leading in 207 seats while Republicans have been leading in 217 seats in the US House. Trump in recent months has been hinting that he would run in the presidential elections. Talking about Republican Party, the former US President said that his party has become much bigger, much stronger, much more powerful [and] can do much more



good for the country. He also said that Russia's war in Ukraine would "never have happened" if he was President. "Even the Democrats have admitted that," Trump said. For the record, no Democrats have said that Russia's war in Ukraine would not have happened if Trump was President, Trump added. Former US President also promised not to give Biden "four more years." "I will ensure Joe Biden does not receive four more years," Trump said. "Our country can not take that. It can only take so much... We will do it again, but with even more votes this time," he added. Former US President has set his eyes on winning a second term

in Washington as he made a statement regarding two GOP governors Ron DeSantis of Florida and Glenn Youngkin of Virginia who could challenge his status as the party's anchor in the coming months, CNN reported. Making a statement regarding Glenn Youngkin, Donald Trump in a post on Truth Social said, "I Endorsed him, did a very big Trump Rally for him telephonically, got MAGA to Vote for him - or he couldn't have come close to winning." Notably, Donald Trump lost to US President Joe Biden in the presidential elections held in 2020. He and his supporters have not acknowledged the results and accused of voter fraud. **ANI**

MORE CURBS

UN voices concern over reports of further curbs on Afghanistan women

KABUL: The UN mission in Afghanistan has expressed its deep concern over reports of women in Afghanistan being prevented from using parks, gyms and baths, and urged the Taliban to respect female citizens' "access to all forms of public life." Last week, the Taliban prohibited Afghan women from visiting all public parks in the country. Taliban spokesperson said they

have also banned women's public bathhouses as they are contrary to the sharia law. "UNAMA is deeply concerned by recent Taliban officials' statements and mounting on-the-ground reports of women being prevented from using parks, gyms and baths. All Afghans' rights should be upheld, particularly women's access to all forms of public life and girls

right to education," the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) wrote on Twitter. Since the return of the Taliban to Kabul in August 2021, the Taliban's systematic attacks on the rights of women and girls and the use of violence, including torture and enforced disappearances, have created a culture of fear in Afghan society. **ANI**



How can eight billion people sustainably share a planet?

As the number of people in the world ticks past another major milestone, Earth's natural resources are feeling the stress. But sustainability experts say we need to focus on overconsumption, not just overpopulation

BRUSSELS: As of November 15, the world's population has exceeded 8 billion people — a growth of another billion in just over a decade.

"The growth of the world population is a remarkable success story," said Sara Hertog, a population expert with the United Nations in New York, highlighting the 25-year increase in average global life expectancy since 1950 and declining birth rates that come with better access to reproductive services, family planning and more education opportunities for girls and women.

But this success has come at a cost, with a recent UN report pointing to population growth as one of the main sources of increased greenhouse gas emissions and ecological destruction. Every extra person adds to the strain on the planet's finite biological resources.

"Biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, deforestation, water and food shortage — these are all exacerbated by our huge and ever-increasing numbers," said UK-based NGO Population Matters.

World's richest countries consume the most

Hertog told DW it's easy to pin these unsustainable consumption and production habits on exploding populations, especially in developing countries in the Global South. But she said it would be a "mistake" to expect that slowing population growth was the only solution.

"It's rising incomes that have been much more important than population growth in driving increased consumption and associ-

ated pollution," she said, pointing out that the world's richest countries, where population growth has slowed or reversed, are using the most resources per capita.

Poorer, developing countries in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, which are set to swell the most in the coming decades, are responsible for only a fraction of global emissions and resource use.

According to the Global Footprint Network, if everyone on the planet lived like a citizen of the United States we would need the resources of at least five Earths. Living like a citizen of a country like Nigeria, however, uses only 70 per cent of the world's resources every year. For India, with its population of more than 1.3 billion, that figure is just 80 per cent.

'We have been living beyond our means'

With population growth unavoidable — the UN has projected a global population of 9.7 billion by 2050, and as high as 11 billion by 2100 — sustainability experts have said we need to look elsewhere for solutions to the climate crisis.

Vanessa Perez-Cirera, the global economics director at the World Resources Institute, pointed out that the world actually has the necessary resources to feed a world population of 8 billion — and potentially billions more, if we rethink our current land use practises.

Learning to 'live well with less'

Lorek stressed, however, that



much of that overconsumption isn't voluntary — it's entrenched in how our societies are set up and the values we see promoted. In media, advertising, films and TV, "this mindset is triggered in people, that financial well-being is the thing," she said.

In recent years, Lorek and others in her field have been researching how people who already enjoy a relatively comfortable standard of living can learn to "live well with less," without giving up their

quality of life. They've focused on three areas which are responsible for most of our emissions and resource consumption: how we eat, how we live and how we move.

Their recommendations will be familiar to anyone who has followed the climate debate: shifting to a more plant-based diet and reducing our consumption of animal-based products, and moving away from a reliance on air travel and individual motorized transportation. It also means restructuring

Biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, deforestation, water and food shortage — these are all exacerbated by our huge and ever-increasing numbers

be 'ecological dictatorship' — we need a societal negotiation process" to work out this new equilibrium between rich and poor, she said. This would ensure that everyone had enough to reach the minimum quality of life threshold and stop others from using a disproportionate amount of the world's limited resources, which she said was "dangerous for social cohesion."

Perez-Cirera said not everyone would have to adopt the same lifestyle, but said it was important to show that "hopeful and attractive" living standards would be possible while curbing overconsumption.

"I do think that aspirations need to change," she said. "If we send the message that whatever we value now is going to be able to be enjoyed in the future, it's not necessarily a realistic message." Instead, she said, policymakers needed to see that economic growth was still possible, with a focus on quality, not quantity. "We should definitely show that a satisfactory life can be lived with fewer things." — DW





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2022 FIFA WORLD CUP

Star-studded Portugal led by Ronaldo top team in Group H

HONG KONG: With the 2022 FIFA World Cup approaching, the participating teams are all fine-tuning their preparations for the quadrennial gala.

The star-studded Portugal led by Cristiano Ronaldo are the favorites in Group H, but it is by no means a one-horse race, as Uruguay, South Korea and Ghana will all have what it takes to make the competition wide open.

Portugal enter the scene on November 24 by taking on Ghana, then meet Uruguay before their final group game with South Korea.

In 2018, Portugal crashed out in the round of 16 after a 2-1 defeat to Uruguay. And in Brazil in 2014, Portugal suffered a group stage exit despite a 2-1 victory over Ghana. Pushing the timeline backwards further, South Korea enjoyed a shock win over Portugal en route to their history-making success in 2002.

For the 2016 European champions, their confidence comes from superstar Ronaldo. The 37-year-old Manchester United hitman has struggled for consistent playing time under coach Erik ten Hag this season, and looks unlikely to play for the Red Devils again after criticising the club in an explosive TV appearance, but he is arguably



the trump card for Portugal at international level.

Diogo Jota is a huge loss for head coach Fernando Santos on the forward line, but Rafael Leao will fill the important role in the absence of the Liverpool forward. Tipped as AC Milan's ace player, Leao has exploded onto the scene in recent years.

In midfield, Bernardo Silva and Bruno Fernandes have the ability to move the needle, while the partnership between veteran Pepe and stalwart Ruben Dias has always been a sturdy presence at the back, with full-back Joao Cancelo push-

ing the ball down the flank into the opposition third and also lending a hand on the defensive side.

Ronaldo has clarified his intention to continue playing for his country until Euro 2024, but given his condition, this may be his last chance to lift the World Cup.

Considered Portugal's biggest threat, Uruguay attracted attention before kick-off as they announced their 26-man squad through a well-designed video that went viral, but the two-time World Champions need to be sharper on the pitch in what will likely be the last World Cup appearance for Luis Suarez, Edinson Cavani, Diego Godin, Fernando Muslera and Martin Caceres.

A dismal start to the qualifying campaign saw Uruguay part ways with Oscar Tabarez, before successor Diego Alonso eventually righted the ship.

With two prolific strikers in Suarez and Cavani, La Celeste had yielded some fine achievements in the last decade. As Cavani and Suarez are entering the twilight of their careers, Alonso still has Darwin Nunez at his disposal.

Despite a shaky introduction to the Premier League, the 23-year-old Liverpool player enhanced his confidence by bagging a brace in

his last game against Southampton before the World Cup break.

As for 24-year-old Federico Valverde, the starlet is flying high at Real Madrid and becoming instrumental under Carlo Ancelotti. The World Cup is a golden opportunity for the midfielder to cement his big-game status.

The presence of Portugal and Uruguay may cast a shadow on South Korea's future and head coach Paulo Bento and star player Son Heung-min now have to prove that they can survive a tough test.

Questions were looming over South Korea when Son underwent a surgery following a facial injury, until the Spurs forward posted an morale-boosting message expressing his fitness for Qatar.

Known for their mental strength, South Korea have occasionally played the role of giant killers, notably the 2-0 upset over defending champions Germany 2-0 in the 2018 World Cup. For South Korea, the second group fixture against Ghana is a must-win game, while the African side have the same thoughts. — *Xinhua*

After failing to qualify for the 2018 tournament, the Black Stars are celebrating their return to the World Cup stage and aim to upset the odds.

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MAN and Arabian Engineering Services mark 40-year partnership milestone with celebrations



Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan receiving the memento from Joerg Mommertz.



Joerg Mommertz (left) and Bjoern Loose speaking (right).

MUSCAT: Under the patronage of Sheikh Yahya bin Nasser Al Harassi, Wali of Baushar, Thomas Friedrich Schneider, German Ambassador to Oman, MAN Truck & Bus SE and Arabian Engineering Services (AES) celebrated a historic milestone – 40 years of a remarkable partnership in Oman. Attending the occasion were leading personalities from the public and private sector and a top management team from MAN, Germany and MAN Middle East FZE. Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Managing Director - Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group said, “This is a very special year for us at Arabian Engineering Services. Together with our partners MAN Truck & Bus, we are celebrating 40 years of a successful and trusted partnership in Oman. I humbly thank our valued customers for their continued patronage over all these years. Some of you have even been by our side since the start of our journey. And indeed we are grateful for the continued support. Achieving this milestone of four decades wouldn’t have been possible without your trust and support. I also take this

opportunity to express our gratitude to the team at MAN Truck & Bus for their constant support, guidance & encouragement.” Speaking about AES’s focus on achieving high levels of customer care, he said, “At AES, customer satisfaction has always remained our major driving force and a top priority. To achieve high levels of customer care, we have made considerable investments in state-of-the-art facilities across the country and a nationwide network of branches. This has been backed by innovative marketing strategies, strong after-sales support and extensive customer care activities.” Sharing his thoughts on the introduction of the MAN New Truck Generation he said, “The MAN vehicles have a prominent presence across various sectors like oil & gas, construction, infrastructure works, government sectors and more. The introduction of the New Truck Generation is set to push the limits with robust, economic and high-quality transport solutions. Making a lasting difference to the business operations of our valued customers.” Speaking on the occasion, Joerg

Mommertz, Senior Vice President, Head of Centre Middle East, Africa and Latin America (MEA&LA), MAN Truck & Bus SE, heaped praises on the milestone partnership between MAN Truck & Bus and Arabian Engineering Services and the collective efforts put into making the brand a success in Oman. He said, “We’re extremely proud of the fact that this is the longest partnership for MAN with any importer in the Middle East region. We would like to thank Sheikh Mohammed Saud Bahwan & his family, and the entire team at Arabian Engineering Services for their vision, commitment, and hard work that has made this a successful and long-lasting partnership. We would more importantly thank our customers, for the trust and belief that they have placed in our brands, which has kept us going for forty years.” He added, “there is a lot that has changed over the years, but our ‘Customer First’ approach will always remain a constant.” Introducing the New Truck Generation to the Oman market and sharing insightful thoughts about it was Bjoern Loose, Head



Felicitation of the first few customers of the all-new TG3 range.

of Marketing & Brand, Senior Vice President, MAN Truck & Bus SE. He said, “The core idea of MAN New Truck Generation was to simplify business from the very beginning. It not only eases the way customers and drivers use our products and services but also makes them more successful in what they do every day.” Speaking about what makes the New Truck Generation range so special he said, “The New MAN TG delivers on 4 key promises under the umbrella of ‘Simply My Truck’. The New MAN TG stands out for

its ‘Excellent Driver Fit’ that focuses on design & workspace, ‘Great Efficiency and Economy’ that delivers on lifecycle cost and payload, ‘Optimised Uptime’ that ensures reliability and minimised downtime, and most importantly serves as ‘Strong Partner’ for the customers satisfying their needs of today as well as the coming years.” Later in the evening, Joerg Mommertz, presented Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan with a special memento, in appreciation of the milestone 40-year partnership. During the evening, a few custom-

ers who were among the first to add the MAN New Truck Generation trucks to their fleets were felicitated by Bjoern Loose, Joerg Mommertz and Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan. The special event had many guests appreciating the partnership between MAN Truck & Bus and Arabian Engineering Services. One of the guests shared, “It is amazing how the ties between MAN and AES have grown stronger over all these years. AES has always focused on high levels of customer care. We are very happy with the service they offer us.”

AHLIBANK

10% cash reward on salary transfers for customers

MUSCAT: Committed to providing exclusive offers and benefits to meet its customers’ expectations, ahlibank continues its special salary transfer reward for customers, where they receive an immediate one-time cash reward of 10% of their monthly salary, with a maximum cash reward amount capped at OMR500. Under the current offer, which runs until November end, the bank offers its Omani and expatriate, new salary transfer customers the opportunity to enjoy a lucrative benefit. Customers who transfer their monthly salary to the Bank with an amount of OMR 1,000 and above are eligible for this reward offer. Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution, said, “Through this offer, we seek to strengthen and establish our relationship with our existing and new customers. The promotion reflects ahlibank’s leadership in being innovative when it comes to enhancing customer experience.”

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MOU INKED

Dante Alighieri to open first Italian language centre in Muscat



MUSCAT: Global Education Services (GES Quality Education) a leading Omani private education group in Oman, will be the partner of Società Dante Alighieri (La Dante's), Italy's official institution for the teaching of the Italian language. They announced the establishment of the first official Italian language centre in Oman. The initiative comes under the auspices of the Embassy of Italy and the Italian-Omani Friendship Association. The memorandum of understanding will combine GES's education sector experience with La Dante's commitment to making the Italian language more accessible in Oman. The opening will also continue to extend valuable bilateral relations, helping to stimulate knowledge and support the growth of educational, cultural, and scientific exchanges between international educational institutions, between the two nations. The centre is planned for location at the heart of the Al Mouj Muscat Development Project. Federica Favi, Italian Ambassador to Oman, highlighted how this marks a turning point in our cultural relations with Oman, making the Italian language closer for the Omani public and a further tool for economic diversification.

CAMPAIGN

Omantel launches 'Voice of Oman' to celebrate Oman's 52nd National Day

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading telecom operator and services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, launched a campaign to pay its tribute to the nation as part of Oman's 52nd National Day celebrations. The campaign themed 'The Voice of Oman' was created to celebrate the country's progress and its achievements over the past 52 years, in addition to aspiring future generations. The campaign includes the release of a newly penned song that reflects how our inner voices, aspirations, and thoughts lead us to create something for the joy and pride of the nation. The song is a collection of several themes that is related to the country, all combined into one, to create a better future for the nation. Like every national day campaign, Omantel has captured the emotional aspect of the day and combined it with the company's key message to spread love, joy and unity on this significant day. As part of this initiative, Omantel has collaborated with a number of celebrities and inspiring figures in Oman, including Ali Al Habsi, Sumaya Al Siyabi and Sultan Al Amri among others. The celebrities involved have all collaborated and established this catchy song to spread 'The Voice of Oman', or 'Sawt Oman' in Arabic. They showcased their inner voices to share their unique and inspiring stories, messages, skills, and talents to create something bigger and better for the nation that people can look up to. The campaign was officially launched with a catchy music video across all social platforms, in addition to a creative interactive figure at the Mall of Oman. The figure illustrates the campaign name and produces key voice inspirational messages from the campaign's characters for the people to listen to and get inspired from.



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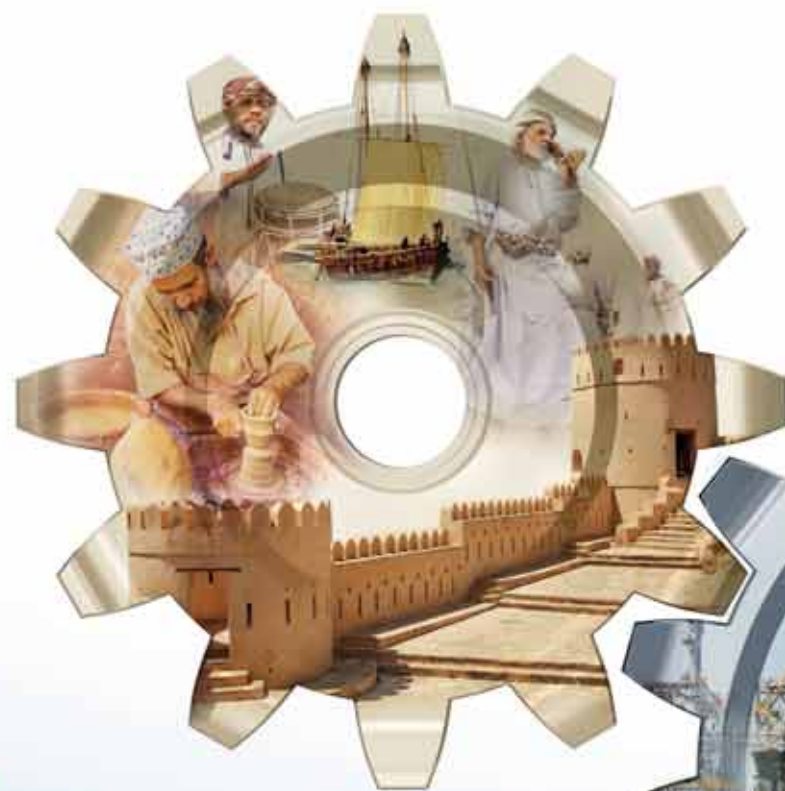
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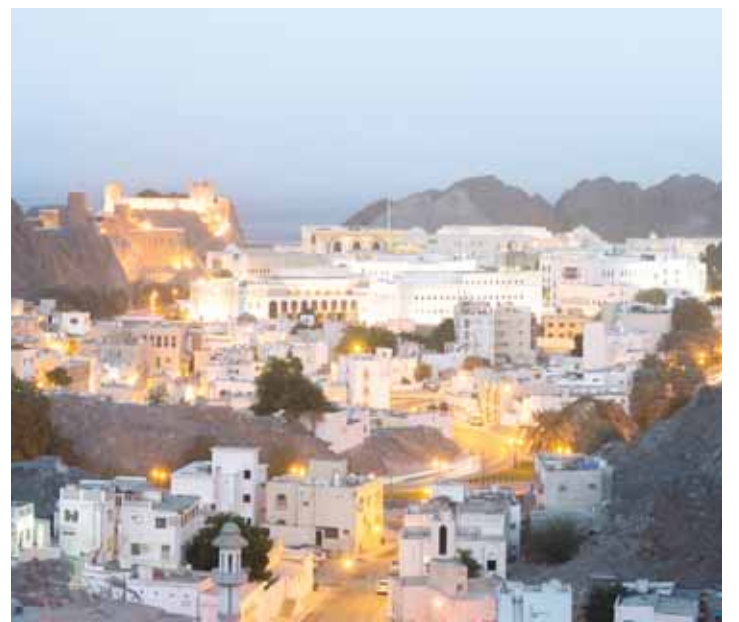
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Oman 52nd National Day

Times
OF OMAN

Special supplement
Thursday, November 17, 2022

TRANQUIL OMAN A HAVEN FOR CITIZENS, EXPATS



Whoever visits Oman, instantly falls in love with this country. The rich heritage, warm hospitality, and loving people have a magnetic effect on the minds of tourists

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is an oasis of peace in the Middle East, unperturbed by the upheavals taking place around.

Continuing in absolute tranquility, the country's leadership has helped solve several tricky issues in the neighbourhood. Be it the repatriation of western citizens stuck in Yemen or the vexed

nuclear talks with Iran, Oman has always played a key role during all such crises. The Oman government has always helped needy nations and received praise from world leaders for their efforts.

Whoever visits Oman, instantly falls in love with this country. The rich heritage, warm hospitality, traditional culture and loving peo-

ple have a magnetic effect on the minds of tourists. It's a beautiful country which people can consider their own.

Many expatriates living here for decades have refused to move out of Oman despite getting better packages and promotions. Its environment as well as slow-paced but comfortable life has a soothing effect on mind, preventing migration.

The standard of living is comparable to any other Gulf country but at a lower cost. During informal meetings many expatriates have opined that they had saved the maximum amount of money while working in the Sultanate without compromising on living standards.

Expats living in Muscat pay less for goods and services than those who live in the capitals of the other



five countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

According to a survey, which calculates the cost of living for expatriates across 13 criteria, including clothing, communication, education, furniture, groceries, accommodation and transport, Muscat is ranked 333rd among 400 national and state capitals around the world.

Muscat also turns out to be cheaper compared to many cities in terms of transport, eating out, personal care, recreation and culture, household accommodation, healthcare, groceries, education, and home appliances.

From the wise leadership of late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur to the caring and benevolent reign of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the country has always been

in able hands with the sole motive being the economic growth and welfare of the people, both citizens and expatriates.

When asked about their opinion for living in Oman, all the citizens and expatriates unequivocally said the hospitality and caring nature of Omanis are the biggest attractions to them.

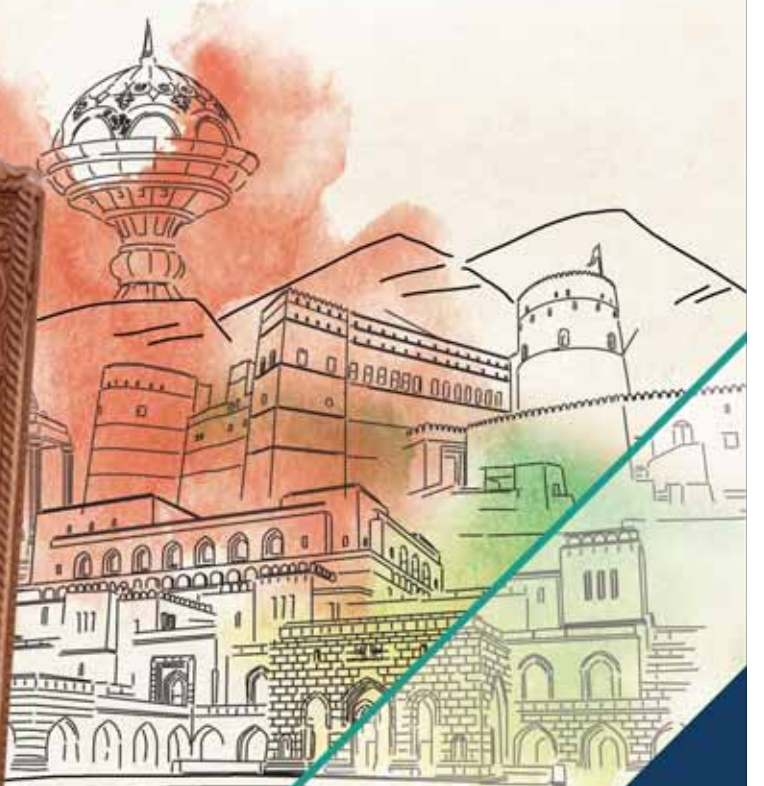
Mohammed Al Lawatia from Muscat Governorate said: "The glorious 52nd National Day is an occasion dear to every Omani citizen in which he celebrates the achievements of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the rational government despite the circumstances that have passed during the past few years, from the coronavirus to the economic consequences, inflation and others. >A3

CELEBRATING THE PATHWAY OF RENEWED RENAISSANCE

Congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the people of Oman on the 52nd National Day of the Renaissance.

As the nation celebrates this momentous occasion, Khimji Ramdas and its social development arm, Eshraqa extend their heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty's visionary leadership that has allowed us to evolve and advance on our commitment towards a sustainable nation aligned with Oman's Vision 2040.

We salute our nation's zeal and determination to reach extraordinary heights of success and to leave an everlasting imprint on the world.



KR
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—18TH OF NOVEMBER—
NATIONAL DAY

Heartiest congratulations to
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN HAITHAM BIN TARIK
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the 52nd National Day



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52ND NATIONAL DAY: MARCH OF LOYALTY HELD IN MAQSHAN

His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Muslim Jadad, Wali of Maqshin, and a number of officials, participated in the march, along with students and the Omani Women's Association

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The people of the Wilayat of Maqshan organised a march of loyalty and gratitude for His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on the occasion of the 52nd National Day.

His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Muslim Jadad, Wali of Maqshin and a number of officials, participated in the march, along with a group of people from the state, school students and the Omani Women's Association, who raised pictures of His Majesty the Sultan, the flag of the

Sultanate of Oman and banners expressing their sincere thanks to His Majesty the Sultan And the achievements made during his reign.

His Excellency referred to the projects expected to be implemented during the next year, which is the road project that links the state centre with the areas extending on the border strip for a distance of 168 km. This project will enhance tourism activity.

His Excellency added that the state is enjoying - like the rest of the states of the Sultanate of Oman - a comprehensive renaiss-



sance in various fields. He pointed to the projects that are currently being implemented in the state of Muqshan, including the health centre at a value of about OMR 1.2 million. It will provide health services to citizens, residents, state visitors and users of Adam-Thumrait road, and will be com-

pleted by the end of 2023.

His Excellency also spoke about the "Maqshan Oasis" project, worth approximately OMR 350,000 and is implemented by the Dhofar Municipality, and aims to provide multiple services to travellers on the Muscat-Salalah highway, especially in the khareef season.

On the internal roads in the wilayat, His Excellency indicated that Dhofar Municipality is paving internal roads, lighting and beautifying the entrance to the wilayat with an amount of OMR 1.3 million, in addition to the Ain Maqshan beautification project worth 20,000 Omani riyals with

the support of the Oman Development Company, and service projects in each of the Prosecution Office Al-Mashash and Mandar Al-Dhabian and Al-Manader District Prosecution, with a value of OMR 240,000, with the support of the Petroleum Development Oman Company.

52ND NATIONAL DAY

<FROM A1 Blessed Renaissance march continues



Al Lawatia, said: "Praise be to God and under the leadership of His Majesty, we were able to overcome all these difficulties and challenges. On the day we can say congratulations to every Omani citizen, and every year and my country Oman is reassuring and stable that will end with development and prosperity."

Rashid Al Sudairi from the Wilayat of Yanqul in Al-Dhahira Governorate said likewise: "On November 18 of every year, it is not like other days, when the builder of Oman was born. We were suffering from a deteriorating economy, poor political conditions, poor infrastructure. There was no education, health, or buildings and there were no diplomatic relations. Today, see how our situation has become. We are competing with developing countries in progress, development and prosperity, and this is thanks to the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who worked diligently, with determination and complete confidence to com-

plete the march of the blessed Renaissance. With each passing year my homeland Oman is stable and happy, continuing to develop and prosper."

Ahmed Jaboob, from the wilayat of Salalah in Dhofar Governorate, said: "Congratulations to us for preserving this glorious day, and congratulations to the leadership that chose to continue to celebrate this day until we are more firmly established and permanent in memory of the founder of the modern renaissance of Oman, Sultan Qaboos bin Said. May God rest his soul."

"One of the major benefits in Oman is the low cost of living in the country, which leads to better savings," said Gyanesh Sharma, an Indian national in Muscat. "This is a big incentive to come here over other Middle Eastern countries."

Ashok Kumar, another expat, added, "I think what people look for when they move overseas for work is a welcoming nature, as well as good and affordable standards of living, and Oman certainly has those."

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF A TRANSFORMING NATION





Congratulations and warm wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on this momentous occasion

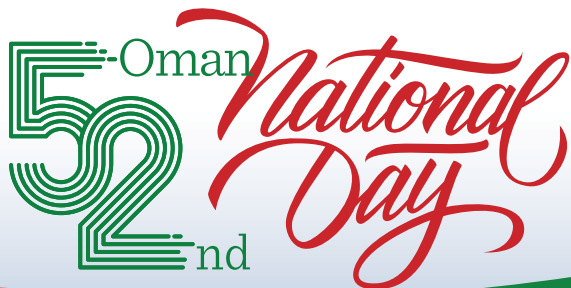
Over the years, Oman has been continually charting its course towards progress and peaceful coexistence. Commemorating the 52nd National Day, Lulu Group pays tribute to the understanding that drives this quest.

We pay our tribute to this vibrant and progressive nation ably led by
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik with his modern day vision and inspiring leadership. On this historic day, we reaffirm our pledge to contribute positively to the growth of this nation and its people.



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Congratulations and warm wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the
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Salute to the visionary leader of Oman,
His Majesty
Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik,
on the country's
52nd National Day.



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Heartiest congratulations to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
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AMBITIOUS MISSION

Oman’s first satellite set for orbit

MUSCAT: All systems go, ready for takeoff. Oman’s space mission early this month moved a step closer to achieving the long-cherished dream – launch of an Omani satellite into orbit.

Oman’s ambitious mission entered a critical phase November 5, 2022 as the first Omani satellite, Aman, was successfully integrated with a launch vehicle, the LauncherOne rocket. Aman will be launched into the Low Earth Orbit, at Newquay, Cornwall in the UK, later this year.

Satellite integration
Satellite integration is a major step in meeting the objectives of Oman’s first space mission.

Oman’s mission is handled by ETCO, an Oman-based emerging technology innovator; Virgin Orbit, a leading US-based satellite launch company; SatRev, Polish nanosatellite manufacturer and operator and TUATARA, specialists in advanced AI, data analytics and cognitive technology solutions. — Times News Service

Congratulations and warm wishes to
His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on the occasion of the
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Congratulations to
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May Allah protect him and the people of
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OPAZ WITNESSING REMARKABLE GROWTH IN ITS SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND FREE ZONES



Opaz plan for this year also includes increasing the gains to the national economy from these zones that are witnessing continuous growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Creating more than 83,000 job opportunities in over 2,800 companies and industries with a total investment worth over OMR14 billion, Public Authority for Special economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) is seeing a remarkable growth in its special economic and free zones.

Since inception, all its zones in Duqm, Al Mazunah, Salalah and Sohar are witnessing robust growth with many achievements being recorded over the past years, marking it an attractive destination for investors from within and outside Oman.

Opaz plan for this year includes increasing the gains to the national economy from these zones that are witnessing continuous growth.

The year 2021 witnessed a remarkable activity in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) and the free zones in Sohar, Salalah and Al Mazunah in terms of completing infrastructure works, attracting investments and strengthening relations with investors. Perhaps, the most prominent achievement is completing the gas delivery project to the Sezad. "Accordingly, we urge investors, wishing to establish projects that require gas, to submit their applications to the Zone," the official added.

Likewise, the year saw the opening of the first plant in Qabas Sohar Solar Energy Project with a capacity of 25 MW in Sohar Free Zone. This project stands as one of the renewable energy projects that the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) focuses on, in line with Oman Vision 2040, which focuses on increasing energy from non-traditional resources.

With regards to attracting investments, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) and the free zones in Al Mazunah, Salalah and Sohar observed the signing of usufruct agreements to establish new projects with local and foreign investments that add value to the national economy. In view of that, OPAZ works to promote these zones and shed light on the major investment opportunities available.



It was established as per the provision of the Royal Decree No 105/2020 issued on August 18, 2020. The Authority oversees the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, the free zones in Sohar, Salalah and Al Mazuna and any other special economic zone or free zone.

Competences of the Authority among others include developing policies and strategic plans of special economic zones and free zones that contribute to achieving development plans of the Sultanate, implement, follow up, and evaluate approved policies and strategic plans towards this end. The Authority also prepares studies, plans and programmes and proposes establishing special economic zones and free zones. It also organises and controls the investment environment in the special economic zones and free zones besides promoting investment opportunities in special economic zones and free zones inside and outside the Sultanate in coordination with the competent bodies.

It also implements the one-stop shop system and issues all types of licenses, permits and certificates for conducting businesses in the special economic zones and free zones.

Executive strategy

Opaz has defined its strategic directions and streamlined it with Oman's Vision 2040 and the Fiscal Balance Plan 2020-2024 when developing its strategy. It seeks, through its strategy, to maximise the benefits of government investments in infrastructure projects in the special

economic zones and free zones, in addition to promoting the role of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). These enterprises mark an integral part in the development of government and private projects, and through introducing a stimulating investment environment that contributes to enhancing the competitiveness of the zones regionally and globally.

Likewise, Opaz is sparing no effort to create innovative business opportunities that are compatible with industrial and information development as well as youth training. This comes as a continuation of the government's efforts to develop the system of special economic zones and free zones. It further reflects its objective towards achieving the integration between the zones in a way that supports the economic development goals.

Sohar Free Zone

(This zone offers export opportunities through Sohar Port)

Sohar Free Zone was established in 2010 by the Royal Decree No (123/2010) and stretches over 45 square kilometres. The Zone benefits from a profitable outreach to both regional and global markets. In addition, it has access to global shipping routes and major global ports all within a proximity of 2 weeks sailing time. Sohar offers swift access to the growing Middle East, Indian and east-African markets.

Sohar Industrial Port Company, a 50-50 joint venture between Asyad Group and the Port of Rotterdam, manages Sohar Port and

the associated free zone.

Sohar Free Zone, together with SOHAR Port, has attracted over US\$27 billion in investments and it brings many industries, most notably: petrochemicals, plastics, metals, mineral materials and food. As the Sultanate does not impose any income taxes on individuals, the tax exemption is extended to companies as well as it reaches up to 25 years in Sohar Free Zone.

Special Economic Zone at Duqm

(The largest special economic Zone in the Middle East and North Africa)

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) was established in 2011 by the Royal Decree No (119/2011) and stretches over 2,000 square kilometres. The Zone enjoys a set of comparative and competitive advantages that qualify it to become one of the key regional and international investment hubs. Its prime location, on the Arabian Sea, overlooking the Indian Ocean, has gained a strategic advantage being on the international shipping lines between East and West and near consumer markets in Asia and Africa.

Sezad attracts a wide range of economic activities such as refineries, petrochemicals, commercial, tourism, logistics, light and medium industries, fish industries and real estate development projects. The Zone meets the demands of potential investors who are looking for large areas to establish their investment projects.

Sezad is located about 550 km away from Muscat and there is an airport that currently receives flights from Muscat, and it is hoped that it will obtain the international license to be an international airport. The airport's capacity is 500,000 passengers annually, and it can be increased to two million passengers in the future.

Main investment sectors:

Refineries, oil storage and petrochemical industries, heavy, medium and light industries, transport and logistics sector, investment in the mining sector, real estate development, fish and food in-

dustries, health and treatment services and the establishment of hospitals and health centres, tourism investment and the establishment of hotels and tourist resorts, development of markets and residential and commercial complexes as well as establishment of private schools, training institutes and university colleges.

Salalah Free Zone

(A Global centre for industries and logistic services on the Arabian sea)

Salalah Free Zone was established in 2006 by the Royal Decree No (62/2006) and stretches over 21.6 square kilometres. Apart from its strategic location, Salalah Free Zone is conveniently situated between the Port, overlooking the Indian Ocean, and the International Airport, making it easily accessible to the global markets. Among its competitive advantages are the access to regional and global markets through its location nearby Salalah Port, which is situated at the key shipping route. Salalah Port is the first gateway that provides swift access to the wider Middle East, Indian Sub-continent and East Africa overall freight costs.

The close proximity of Salalah Free Zone to Salalah Airport acts as a catalyst for multi-modal connectivity ensuring seamless movement of goods, creating value chain integration opportunities. Further, the Key global markets are within 2 weeks sailing time.

The Omani business environment offers businessmen, entrepreneurs and multinational organisations several incentives that provide ease, security and profitability. These include among others 100 per cent foreign ownership, no restrictions on currency, exemption from income tax for 30 years from the date commencing the business, full exemption from import and re-export duties.

The Salalah Free Zone also offers no minimum capital requirements, exemption from paying municipal fees, real estate and land fees, except for those fees that are due through the one-stop shop, the possibility of establishing representative offices in the customs zone in the Sultanate, the minimum required Omanisation percentage is only 20, export guar-

antee insurance and exemption from all taxes.

Al Mazunah Free Zone:

(The Gulf gateway or transship to Yemen and East Africa)

Al Mazunah Free Zone was established in 1999 as the first of its kind free zone in the Sultanate. Stretching over an area of 14.5 square kilometres, the Zone is located close to the Omani-Yemeni borders. The strategic location of the free zone makes it the Gulf gateway for transit trading to the Republic of Yemen and the countries of East Africa. The Royal Decree No (103/2005) assigned the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) to be the operation body of Al Mazunah Free Zone. The Free Zones Law No (56/2002) grants incentives, benefits and the other related facilities to Al Mazunah Free Zone.

A Mazunah Free Zone is located in the far south-west of the Sultanate on the borders of the Republic of Yemen, 14 km away from the Yemeni city (Shahen), and away from the city of Salalah, about 260 kilometers, about 1130 kilometers from the capital Muscat.

The Zone attracted a strategic investor to develop and manage an area of 1 million square metres, which was divided into plots as per the investment requirements of the Zone. It contains a new road network, water tanks, telecommunications network with optical fibers, electricity and sewage network.

Continuous growth of the special economic zones and free zones

The special economic zones and free zones play a significant role in the Sultanate's development plans. In the fifth five-year plan, Al Mazunah Free Zone was established and was officially inaugurated in 1999, followed by the launch of Salalah Free Zone in 2006.

Then, the establishment of Sohar Free Zone came in 2010. At the onset of the eighth five-year plan, the Sezad was established. In view of that, the year 2020 witnessed a commendable facelift in this field through the establishment of Opaz, which supervises these zones and works to achieve their integration.



INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDER

Asyad cementing its role in putting Oman on global logistics sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Asyad Group is Oman's global integrated logistics service provider. As a \$4 billion enterprise and backed by an initial \$20 billion in government infrastructure spending, Asyad is attracting customers keen to leverage the country's integrated logistics facilities and establish manufacturing.

Asyad Group provides integrated logistics solutions across ports, free zones and shipping. It comprises three deep ports, two free zones and an economic zone supported by Oman's five airports, and a world-class road network. In addition, Asyad operates full maritime services with one of the largest drydock in the middle east and a diversified fleet of more than 60 vessels, supported by a sea transport network that connects Oman to key ports across the region and the globe.

The Group offers integrated logistics services to meet market needs and support Oman's economy. This allows optimal use of its diverse and powerful support assets, including its renowned Asyad Express service that spans from the 3,000m2 world-class fulfilment centre to the last mile delivery, serving finance, e-commerce, manufacturing, and other businesses.

Asyad's goal is to create significant economic benefits such as volumes connectivity, job creation, contribution to national GDP, national trade and industry enabling, technology transfer and social welfare.

Some of the important ports that Asyad manages are:

Port Sultan Qaboos

Port Sultan Qaboos (PSQ) is situated in the Gulf of Oman at the entrance to the Arabian Gulf. The port is 350 kilometres to the south of the Straits of Hormuz and close to main shipping routes connecting the Middle East with Africa, Asia and Europe. PSQ is well positioned to attract international cruise ships and serves as one of



Oman's primary tourism gateways. The port is equipped with a modern passenger terminal as well as all of the berthing and ancillary facilities needed for safe cruise operations. Modern infrastructure and efficient services played an important role in the port's recognition as the Most Improved Cruise Destination between 2010 and 2014 by Cruise Insight Magazine. Asyad Ports has managed and operated Port Sultan Qaboos since the January 1, 2018, and is committed to building on this legacy of excellence.

Port of Salalah

In operation since 1998, the Port of Salalah has benefitted from over USD 800 million in investment and is now one of the world's largest trans-shipment ports. Salalah offers world-class terminal capabilities for liquid bulk and mineral bulk handling.

The Port is managed and operated by Salalah Port Services Company, a public listed company

with main shareholders between Asyad and APM Terminals, one of the world's largest container terminal operators.

Strategically located directly adjacent to the main East-West Shipping Lane, Salalah provides the region's fastest access point to the wider Middle East, Indian subcontinent and East Africa. The port is situated well-away from the Straits of Hormuz – reducing carrier insurance premiums and overall freight costs.

Port customers benefit from a container terminal with 7 berths, a general cargo terminal with 12 berths and a liquid jetty with 2 berths -with up to 18 meters draft it regularly accommodates the world's largest container ships.

Operations are supported by state-of-the-art freight handling infrastructure, a 2.4 km container-berth quay with additional growth capacity, dedicated petrochemical jetties and a more than 3 km long quay for the general cargo terminal – which is able to



receive all types of commercial carriers, cruise liners and bulk tankers, as well as other types of cargo vessels.

Salalah hosts more than 2,500 vessel calls each year and is one of the fastest-growing port operations world-wide. Services include stevedoring, container maintenance and repair, tug services, bunkering, warehousing and other port related services.

More recently, Salalah Port announced a OMR 23.4 million initiative to add 2.4km to the current 2.2km central service corridor, in partnership with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and OQ. The expanded corridor will facilitate a number of logistics solutions including the transfer of liquids through dedicated pipelines in Salalah Free Zone to offload locations, decreasing transportation costs and attracting increased foreign investment.

Further expansion plans are in place to add more capacity to all the terminals.

The Port is made an even more attractive destination by the adjacent Salalah Free Zone and Al Mazunah Free Zone and Salalah Airport, and its position as part of the Asyad Group. Oman's new integrated logistics provider brings together 16 logistics companies and joint ventures under one entity, improving performance, creating efficiencies, offering economies of scale and providing bespoke logistics solutions to global and regional customers.

Sohar Port

In operation since 2004 and situated outside the Strait of Hormuz, Sohar is at the heart of global trade routes connecting Europe and Asia, offering unrivalled connectivity and tremendous growth opportunity. The Port is a 21 million sqm deep-sea hub comprising three established major clusters – logistics, petrochemicals and metals. More recently joined by a food cluster, which includes Oman's first-ever terminal dedicated to the handling of agricultural bulk. The port is within two weeks sail of all major global ports, enabling swift access to the rapidly growing markets of the GCC, India and East-Africa.

Sohar Port and its adjacent Free Zone are managed by Sohar Industrial Port Company (SIPC), a 50:50 joint venture between Asyad and the Port of Rotterdam. The Port terminals are operated by leading international companies: C. Steinweg Oman for general cargo handling, Oiltanking Terminals for liquid bulk handling, and Hutchison Port Sohar for container handling, with the container offering benefitting from remote-controlled gantries capable of servicing the largest of the world's container ships.

Sohar Port hosts more than 3,000 vessel calls each year, with a gross registered tonnage of around 85 million it is one of the fastest-growing port operations world-wide, offering variety of added value services including; bunkering, marine supply, ship supply, fresh water deliveries and ship-to-ship transfer and operations. The port also employs remote-controlled drones for swift and seamless maintenance operations. As part of Sohar's commitment to sustainability, Sohar Industrial Port Company recently partnered with Shell to power facilities through PV solar energy.

The Sohar Port and its adjacent Freezone host entire supply chains, from production to delivery in one connected and easily accessible area.

Sohar Port is part of Asyad

Group - Oman's new integrated logistics provider bringing together 16 logistics companies and joint ventures under one entity, improving performance, creating efficiencies, offering economies of scale and providing bespoke logistics solutions to global and regional customers.

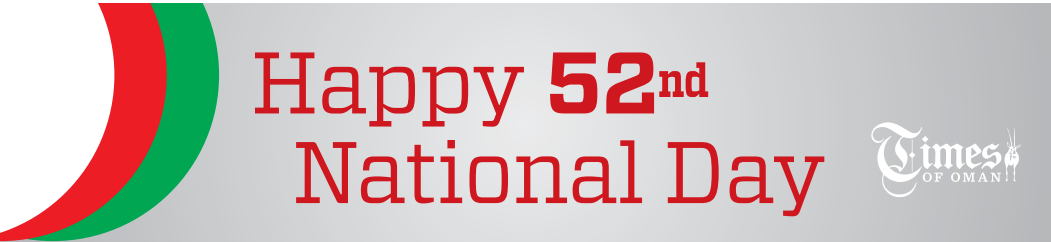
Port of Duqm

Situated in the south-east of Oman and located close to the Sultanate's major oil & gas and mining projects, the Port of Duqm is a joint-venture between Asyad Group and Consortium Antwerp Port.

Benefitting in a first phase from a 2,200 metre commercial quay and an 18 metre draft able to handle all vessels, Duqm is set to become a world-class, multipurpose commercial gateway and trans-shipment hub. Duqm is ideally positioned to serve as a one-stop gateway to the Middle East – especially for goods originating in Asia – and the whole operation is designed so that it can be rapidly expanded as market share grows. The area is also known for its abundant fish resources, and as a result, Duqm also has ambitions to become a hub for fish processing industries and aquaculture projects.

The Port of Duqm, which has been in operation since 2012, has already built up extensive expertise in the handling of break bulk, project cargo as well as dry bulk cargoes. The port, which operated one year after the opening of the neighbouring dry dock, benefits from a multi-purpose feeder line linking Duqm with the main regional ports, simplifying container movement in and out of the port and cutting consignment times.

As a key part of the Sultanate's development plans, the Port of Duqm will be the centre of a logistics hub encompassing multimodal maritime, road, air and rail transport. The new Duqm international airport is already operational and the feasibility of a new rail line project connecting Duqm to various inland destinations is currently under investigation.



Greetings to
The Pioneer Leader and Great Visionary
His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
and the people of The Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of
52nd National Day

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Congratulate His Majesty
Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik
and the people of Oman on the
glorious occasion of the
National Day

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Sohar Aluminium and all its employees
express their heartfelt congratulations to

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

and to the people of Oman on the occasion of
the glorious 52nd National Day of Renaissance.



Inspired by the wise leadership of **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik**, and our commitment to contribute to the achievement of Oman Vision 2040, and other national development plans, we reiterate our pledge and loyalty to His Majesty, and affirm the continuation of our efforts and playing our roles for the development of our beloved Oman and the prosperity of its people.

